

MINUTES
NEVADA HOMELAND SECURITY COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, May 24, 2004, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN BUSSELL

Chairman Jerry Bussell called the Nevada Homeland Security Commission to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Lindsay Eaton took roll call and determined there was a quorum available for the meeting.

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lt. John Alamshaw, Chairman Jerry Bussell, Mr. Richard Brenner, Mr. Tod Carlini, Mr. Robert Fisher, Vice-Chairman Jerry Keller, Ms. Maria Lipscomb, Mr. Chuck Lowden, Mr. Michael Mayberry, Ms. Kimberly McDonald, Mr. Jack Staley, Mr. Doyle Sutton, Mr. George Togliatti, General Giles Vanderhoof, Ms. Larma Volk, Deputy Attorney Glade Myler was also in attendance.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: none.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Dennis Balaam, Mr. Dale Carrison, Ms. Ellen Knowlton, Mr. Robert Hadfield, Mr. Robert Cashell, Ms. Maureen Peckman, Mr. Lawrence Weekly, and Sheriff Bill Young. Senator Dennis Nolan, Assemblyman William Horne.

AGENDA ITEM #2: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 1, 2004 MEETING.

Mr. Keller remarked that in the minutes from the April 1st meeting, "There was a clear reference to the communications system being vendor generic not vendor specific. I think this fact has been lost over the last month or so, and that needs to be in the record. That has been a common theme in every discussion from this seat since our very first meeting and I think this needs to be in the record.

Motion: Mr. Keller, "With that said, I move that the minutes be approved as written."

Seconded: [unintelligible]

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3: FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2004 OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS (ODP) GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS – MR TIM McAndrew (Discussion/Action)

Mr. McAndrew presented a brief outline of the deliberations the Finance Sub-Committee used to come to relevant to deciding what actions to recommend to the Commission. The sub-committee met two weeks ago to deliberate these matters. Mr. McAndrew also provided a narrative recommendation and a spreadsheet analysis of the recommendations. There are three independent grants: State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Law Enforcement Terrorist Prevention Program (LETPP) and the Citizen Corps Program and each are addressed separately on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM #3.1. CONSIDERATION FOR RECOMMENDED APPROVAL TO THE NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP) GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE NEVADA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO INCLUDE LOCAL GOVERNEMENTS, TRIBAL NATIONS AND STATE GOVERNEMENT.

Tim McAndrew, "The Finance Committee recommends that SHSP grant funds be allotted to those jurisdictions who applied based on the population formula up to the

maximum amount each jurisdiction applied for, noting that some jurisdictions actually asked for less than they would have received on a strictly population based formula. The jurisdictions whose requests exceeded the funding they will receive based on the population formula should be allowed to review their line item lists and, using the established grant guidance, adjust their priority lists as they see fit.”

Motion: Mr. Mayberry, “I move that we accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation regarding the SHSP grant funds.”

Seconded: Mr. Lowden

Discussion: Mr. Keller, “I know we are approving multi millions of dollars for expenditure on state grants and it has been closely reviewed by the finance committee and the Department of Emergency Management for the appropriateness of the grant submissions. My hope would be, and we had discussed this at the last Commission meeting, that all the communications equipment purchased using these dollars will meet together somewhere in the future. My understanding was at the last meeting had discussed and recommended that we put on the agenda for adoption a forward direction, a focal point for every entity in the state the Four Core Communications System. That is not on the agenda for this time as we requested, but I would hope that the millions of dollars spent for communications equipment within the money we’re approving today all will fit into whatever state interoperability communications system that is adopted. It almost seems that we are putting the chickens in before we build the chicken coop, but I think that is important to have that in the record.”

Mr. Fisher, “Mr. Chairman, at least so it can go into the record. I spent much of the weekend reviewing all the information I had been able to obtain. There are certain bottom line issues for me that have not changed. I know the committee met for two days and considered this, but there are still issues that remain. There are bottom line questions. I go back to the letter from Mr. Bussell of Nov 2003. I am still struggling with the purpose of this commission. I am still struggling with are we following the legislation as outlined. I am struggling with the criteria used to determine who gets what and is it being followed. I am struggling with some of the decisions by this commission. I am concerned as you look through all these items. We don’t know the various agencies, department, agencies, what they requested and why they requested it. As you look through everything that is there, there are lots of questions that could be raised about a lot different items. At least I want to go on the record as one voice, and you are right Jerry, we are going to award millions of dollars, and I am a little uncomfortable doing that. I think if the public really understood some of these items that have been requested, and unless the items are properly backed up there would be a lot of questions. My concern is what we are charged with. Is it for Homeland Security? And is what they are requested for Homeland Security? I refer back to my opening comments when we first met, and I haven’t changed my mind. That is, all over the state, whenever there is a problem, we apply for Homeland Security dollars. I just hope that Homeland Security is being addressed and we are following the letter of the law from the legislation that was passed.

Mr. [unknown]. “In regards to what Mr. Fisher stated, during the Finance Committee meeting that is something we did struggle with. And

based on recommendations made by Mr. Siracusa and his office and the hard work they put in. And the time constraints that we were faced with we felt we had to move forward. I understand your concerns totally, but we have to move forward.”

Mr. Keller. “I would just simply add that these recommendations have been pre-screened by local jurisdictions and the LEPC’s and meets that county’s needs. Whether I agree we should buy 24 ATV’s at 24 different prices across this state, or that we buy a variety of command posts across this state. I think give them an over arching approval. We recognize a conglomerate approach. Without a single may pole of Homeland Security to wrap around it is a conglomeration of items. We want all the equipment to be multi-use. We wanted it to tag to the goals set forth in the state strategic plan. And if there’s a link there, and if the leaders of each jurisdiction’s LEPC has agreed that this is the approach, then I don’t think it is upon us to I don’t want to say we are not concerned. We all have a shared responsibility to this welfare of the citizen of this state and toward progress in Homeland Security. I recall at the last meeting that we talked about these time frames, and we now have a year to get ready for the next cycle. We have all been learning about different things, and but I don’t think money will be spent any person sitting on the commission would want it to be spend. I think it is a multi-tiered approach and we are not responsible for any one particular way. Our task is to make sure the items meet all the grant criteria and that the process has been followed. And then we move forward to give our approval to these recommendations. I think we all share thoughts.

Giles Vanderhoof, “Just a short comment. I don’t disagree with anything the Vice-Chairman said, but I do know that all of these dollars have come with some criteria. I know that in Emergency Management they scrubbed those as well as they can. After they do all that they brief our sub-committee in as much detail as they want and answer any questions that we have. Then they come back with their recommendations. I agree that any one person could disagree with one thing or another, and I know this is a quick process, but I think that it was vetted properly and I have no problem going ahead with the vote.”

Mr. McAndrew, “Two other items I could offer before you vote. I would like to give you a level of comfort with what you are about to do. Vice-Chairman Keller just touched on it a moment ago, when he said that all the equipment should be intended to be multi-use. When you answered the Governor’s call last year to serve on this commission, I have a strong sense that what you did not know is that you were going to be pulled into the vortex of the all hazards approach to planning. You’re sitting on the Homeland Security Commission and I know your focus is on terrorism and the prevention of terrorist acts. But the application criteria from Homeland Security is very clear in that they strongly encourage the use of all this equipment for multi-use. They discourage agencies from laying in tens of millions of dollars of equipment and putting it into a glass case

with a hammer attached that says, 'Break only in the event of a terrorism event.' That is not the purpose for this. The purpose for this is all hazards approach. Wouldn't it be a shame if a community was hit with an earthquake or a fire, or flood or some other non-terrorism event and had tens of millions of dollars of equipment they couldn't use. That is not the purpose of this. The purpose of this is to meet the all hazards approach. Before you take action, it sounds as if you are nearing that. I need to mention that I should be sure to mention that Roman numeral 1B also address the state departments. The State departments, likewise with the LEPCs and tribal nations did their jobs and applied for all of their programs, measured against the same criteria that the local jurisdictions used. DEM & Homeland Security Advisor met with the Governor and revised those requests as well. I think it is commendable to note that of the many, many requests they refined they to where they came up with a positive variance at the end of the day. And there is more money that the State is actually contributing back to the local jurisdictions in the amount of \$15,000 dollars for that category.

Mr. Chairman I would like to amend my motion to include the three subtitles that are covered under the SHSP to include the Tribal and State agencies.

Moved: Mr. [unknown], "I move to amend my motion to include the tribal and state agencies."

Seconded: Ms McDonald.

Mr. Carlini: Are we also considering with the Homeland Security Grand the residual distribution?

Mr. [unknown], "not yet Tod.

Ms Lipscomb, "Some grants were exceeded by \$18 million and you want the local jurisdictions to look at that and adjust their requests. What is the time frame for them to do that?"

Mr. McAndrew. "Thank you for your question. For purposes of clarification the total local and tribal applications, aggregate total exceeded 18 million dollars. There is a little over 16 million dollars in funding available, so the overage, if you will, is about 2.4 million dollars. With regards to those jurisdictions it is incumbent on those jurisdictions, like any budgetary process, you go back to the drawing board and take a look, now that you know what you are going to have verses what you thought you were going to have, and you redo the budget process. Look at your programs, put it in the hands of the local jurisdictions, that's what the cry has been across this nation, and let the local jurisdictions have self-determination. That day is here and that is what the recommendation is. Now with regards to what type of time frame, I would need to differ to the Division of Emergency Management to answer that question. I believe the time frame is very short.

Mr. Siracusa: "Good morning, we are on a very tight time frame. We are looking at this Friday as the deadline."

Vote: Carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3.2 CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SHSP
RESIDUAL GRANT FUNDS.

Mr. McAndrew. “Mr. Chairman, Item #2 on your agenda is a discussion relative to the distribution of residual funds in the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). As mentioned previously, 10 of the local LEPC jurisdictions proposals exceeded their population-based allotments. In short what the means is that there are projects that did not receive funding in the initial pass, or a project was partially funded in the initial pass. There was some discussion, prior to these applications being distributed, that perhaps the residual funds should be distributed on a competitive basis. There was a lot of money here, not to say the \$633, 000 is not a lot money, but in the overall scheme of things here in the state \$2.4 million in overage requests verses \$633,000 in residual funds, this much I could tell you from personally looking at some of these project is that you could consume one line item with \$633,000. A sizable command post, for example, is three quarters of a million dollar line item. So the discussion at the committee level was that since 10 of the LEPC jurisdictions had requests that exceeded their population-based allotment that perhaps this year it was going to be in the best interest of all, rather than competitively awarding one or two projects, that we simply just run that amount back through the population-based formula for those 10 jurisdictions that had unfunded. So that is the recommendation: Reapply the population-based formula of those 10 LEPC jurisdictions, that would omit the four LEPC jurisdictions and 3 tribal nations whose applications in that category did not exceed their population-based formula. That thought of the committee was that we don’t want to provide additional funding to a jurisdiction that didn’t had already had all their requests met.

MOTION: Mr. Keller: “Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we accept the recommendation of the finance sub-committee on item 2, distribution of residual funds.

Seconded by General Vanderhoof

Discussion: none

Vote: Passed Unanimously

AGENDA ITEM 3.3 CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE’S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT
TERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAM (LETPP).

Mr. McAndrew. “For purposes of this discussion I will consolidate local, tribal and state, as I did last time. Please keep that in mind as we go through. Page two of the narrative handout item IIIa the first part is discussion relative to local jurisdictions and tribes. 10 of the 16 eligible LEPC jurisdictions and 3 tribal nations applied for funding in this category. Their total aggregate proposals exceeded \$9.8 million. Each of the applicant’s jurisdictions clearly demonstrated their needs in this category. Again, they matched them against the needs assessments, the program expenditures and the state homeland security strategy. DEM staff collated the applications, verified them for compliance and provided copies to the Finance Committee. There was considerable discussion here relative to how these funds; the optional manners to distribute these funds. I think stemming off of the discussion of previous matters. The finance committee

was in a waterfall approach at this point. They were on a roll and it seemed the appropriate to do with this grant cycle is to use the population-based allotment, rather than get into the discussion is one agency's need more important than any other agency's need, when they have all clearly demonstrated that they have needs in these categories and matched them against the Homeland state strategy. It was a very long discussion that day. The recommendation here in front of you today is to distribute those funds based on the population distribution method of those jurisdictions that applied. Those jurisdictions that did not apply will have their populations omitted from the formulary calculations. There was also discussion from one tribal representative, and I think he very intuitively put a concern on the table. Because the tribal nations receive a flat 2% versus a really an aggregate of their populations, their populations are built within the county populations statewide. So the current methodology is a flat 2%. The discussion there was based on that distribution would the tribes independently receive an adequate amount of funding to fund any their projects at all, if their internal populations were small. So the discussion was two-fold, to establish, internal if you will, within the tribes a 20,000 base allotment for each of the tribes with the remaining amount be prorated, and this was at the tribes requests and there was no opposition to it, was to distribute the remaining balance on a prorated percentage to teach of these three tribes applications of what they requested versus an internal population. So 20% base and the remaining balance within the tribal 2% allotment to be distributed based on prorated percentage of what they had requested. The state departments as well, I'll finish with three of the state Departments and the Carson City LEPC are requesting funding in the LETPP category. Their aggregate proposals exceeded \$2.7 million. The state had gone through, once again, and have revised that and carved down the requirement. So the recommendation today is to fund two of the State Departments and a number of the Carson City priority projects. Again, there would be a remaining balance that the state generously is offering to roll back into the local LETPP funding; that amounted to \$16,748. So that is the recommendation in front of you.

Mr. Chuc Lowden, "Moved to approve."

Ms [unknown], "Seconded."

Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 3.4 CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CITIZEN CORPS
PROGRAM (CCP).**

Mr. McAndrew, "Mr. Chairman, the last item you have in front of you is discussion relative to distribution of Citizens Corps Program funding to local jurisdictions and tribes and also State Citizen's Corps Program. You will find narrative located on the narrative handout, page #3, line item IV a & b. Interesting discussion here. Perhaps the smallest amount of money is often times the most difficult one to wrestle with. When you have a lot of money everyone can some of it. When there is not a lot of money available for distribution, the local jurisdictions and tribes the total sum that we are dealing with \$332,800 to dilute that statewide is a difficult task. In order to leave a measurable amount of funding to be able to do something really that is meaningful within each of the jurisdictions. It was a tough discussion to have, and it continues to be tough

today. There are a number of philosophies on this. I suppose the best way to describe this to you is that of the 6 applicants within the local and tribal jurisdictions that applied for this grant, the total aggregate of requests was \$609,000, it actually exceed that by a couple hundred dollars, but in round figures it exceeded \$609,000. The requests nearly double the amount we have available to be distributed. Because of that large disparity between the two, the committee really struggled with trying to get its arms around where you even start the discussion on what to do, what the criteria is in terms of distributing these funds. The Citizen's Corps Council, I want to make sure you understand. The Citizen's Corps Council is truly the program that you want several million dollars here. These are the programs that really go out and touch Mr. & Mrs. Smith where they live out in the community. This is where the local jurisdictions can go out and work with the individual citizens to prepare them for disaster response and really staunchly encourage them to get off the couch and become involved with voluntary programs. They are the Neighborhood Watch Program, Volunteers in Police Service, Community Emergency Response Team Training that many fire departments host, and a variety of other volunteer programs, the American Red Cross, etc. Another program is the Medical Reserve Corps using volunteer retired medical personnel. So as the discussion went on in the committee it resolved into taking a look at which of those applicants had followed the program guidance for the CCP. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has published since the development of this program. Actually this program was introduced in President Bush's State of the Union Address January of 2002 shortly after the events of 2001. He introduced this program as part of the U.S. Freedom Corps, and at that time FEMA posted and published a guidance document to walk communities, if you will, how to establish Citizen's Corps Programs. The funding for the Citizen's Corps program and its individual programs such as CERC, Neighborhood Watch, and what have you has actually been available through the citizen's corps for three years now. There was FY 02 money, FY 03 money..."

Mr. Keller, "What is the recommendation of the committee, Mr. McAndrew?"

Mr. McAndrew, "sir, the recommendation of the committee in short is to fund those three applicants, three of the six applicants that had followed the guidance of the Citizen's Corps Program by having established registered Citizen's Corps Councils with DHS and FEMA, and that the distribution be based on population formula again."

Moved by Mr. Lowden, "So moved."

Seconded by Mr. Brenner, "Seconded."

Discussion: Mr. Keller, "The discussion is, while I understand the emotional struggle of the committee there is no financial struggle when only three of the applicants met the necessary guidelines put out by FEMA & DHS. We don't really need millions if we only had \$600,000 worth of grant requests in the State of Nevada and these are tax dollars, Federal tax dollars, coming back to citizens who forwarded those tax dollars to Washington D.C. so population based is appropriate. The only reason it is population based is because if it were threat

based the only county in Nevada that would get money would be Clark County. Let's all make sure we keep those priorities in place as we struggle with the distribution of these funds."

Mr. Fisher, "Can I make a comment on that? I also want to remind everybody, and Jerry I think, Jerry Keller, that you would also agree when we are talking about dollars and figures and Homeland Security if something happens in Pershing County, I am not sure that it is going to have the same impact of a terrorist incident in Clark County. And I will remind everybody that if we have a terrorist incident in Clark County, if I'm correct, on 9-11 which is far away from Clark County we lost a billion dollars in this community. And if we have a terrorist incident in Clark County then we need to not only understand that it has not only a statewide impact, but a national impact, and I would submit that it has an international impact. I am sorry that Bill [Young] is not here and I know that he had a problem, I want to make sure, and there is nothing we can do and it is fine. And at this point next we can't. I want to make sure that Clark County has the money that it needs and is protected as it needs to be, because if something happens on that Strip, we're gonna be in big trouble, as a county and internationally. So I realize that we want to be fair to everybody and we are giving hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars away as we have been directed to, but I think that we need to keep the focus on where it is and the focus is not too far away from this building."

Mr. Bussell, "Along those same lines I would like to make a statement. There have been a lot of things in the newspapers lately and I just want to see if I can set the record straight. First there is no \$86 million communications contract. There is no \$40 million communications contract. There is no \$26 million communications contract. There is no \$17 million communications contract. There is no communications contract in any amount before this commission. There is no communications contract in any amount before me, any of you, any state, county, city or other local governmental agency. Thus there is no legitimate argument that I nor any one of you have a conflict of interest or have used our position to benefit family or friends concerning communications contracts. If either the press, or the public, or anyone else takes time to investigate and verify the truth they, too, will come to the same conclusion. What can and should be verified is this: in 2002 the Governor created the position of Special Advisor to the Governor on Homeland Security. In 2002 the Governor asked me to be his Special Advisor on Homeland Security. I agreed. I agreed to come out of retirement to perform public service, to put my personal and business interests on hold to serve my state. The Special Advisor's job was a full-time job; in fact more than a full-time job. And then in 2003 our Legislature created this commission, the Homeland Security Commission. In my opinion the importance of this commission, especially in the light of world events and high profile of Las Vegas, as Commissioner Fisher has so clearly pointed out, is higher than any other statewide commission. In 2003 our Legislature and the Governor has the foresight to understand that this commission must draw from the best that our government and private sector had to offer, to accomplish its multiple missions. The makeup of this commission is reflective of that foresight. In addition the Legislature had

the foresight to require that we think outside the box; be open to all ideas and create new plans that were not simply business as usual. In 2003 the Governor honored me by again asking me to serve as Chair of this Commission. I accepted. I soon realized that I had two full-time jobs. I tried to perform both these jobs well. I had no resources. I proposed a plan to the Governor to remedy this situation and my proposal was not accepted. I continued as best as I could. I had agreed to do my very best; I did not want to let my Governor or my state down. I did my very best. What is also true, that on Sep 11, 2001 this country experienced a terrible tragedy. And as the 9-11 hearings before Congress has made clear, people died in the World Trade Center because the local first responders could not communicate with each other. Guess what? Nevada's first responders cannot communicate with each other. If Nevada experienced a terrorist attack people might die because our first responders cannot communicate with each other. Our Legislature had the foresight to mandate, legislatively mandate, in Assembly Bill 441, that this commission would come up with a plan to ensure that our first responders be able to communicate with each other. The words the legislature chose, that were not suggesting, they were mandatory. The Legislature mandated that this commission shall come up with a plan to ensure that our first responders can communicate with each other at all levels. This mandate is so important; it is the only mandate that has a due date. A drop-dead date associated with critical purchases of needed terrorism fighting equipment. The legislative mandate requires us, and I quote, 'to assess, examine and review the use of information systems and systems of communications used by response agencies within the state to determine the degree to which each system is compatible and interoperable. After conducting the assessment, examination, review the commission shall establish a state plan setting forth criteria and standards for the compatibility and interoperability of those systems when used by response agencies within the state.' End of quote, section 17 Para 5 of AB 441. That Legislative mandate was so important that no information system could be put into place after Jul 1, 2005 without complying with the plan, which we, this commission, had to develop. The importance was underscored recently by Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, April 20, 2004, here in Las Vegas when he announced the Federal Interoperability Communications plan, and by Senator Harry Reid on April the 16th, 2004, when he said that interoperability of communications systems for our first responders was his number 1 priority in Washington, D.C.. This commission, all of you, through extraordinary effort met our legislative mandate. On 1 April we voted and adopted a plan presented by Dennis Cobb of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, on behalf of essential first responder agencies and thousands of first responder radio users. That plan will begin to ensure that our first responders can communicate with each other. For the first time in Nevada's history we got an agreement from the four major radio users; the Southern Nevada Communications Council, The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Washoe County and the Nevada Shared Radio System that supports public safety and other, on how to proceed forward to ensure that our first responders will be able to talk with each other. I am proud of that plan, and you should be too. On April 12, 2004 I

received a letter from those four user groups requesting that I, in my capacity as Chairman of this commission, and Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee, submit their joint letter and consideration a joint application to being implementation of our approved communications plan. Due to administrative timing and other issues, the LEPC process, and requirements from the Department of Emergency Management, they brought their request to me. The request was signed by Sheriff Bill Young, Dennis Balaam, Jack Staley of the Southern Nevada Communications Council, and Robert Chisel of the Nevada Department of Transportation. I tried to comply with their request. I wanted their request to be considered and discussed by the Finance Sub-Committee and ultimately by this communication as a whole. Together with any other important requests within the funding parameters we established. Some did not agree with my efforts. And now you have seen the response. However, I believe that each of you, fellow commissioners, especially Sheriff Bill Young, Dennis Balaam, Jack Staley and Robert Chisel, are to be applauded for your efforts at attempting to immediately address this communications priority without delay. Since the most important crisis facing Nevada today is interoperability communications. I have served you gracefully, and with honor, and I appreciate that opportunity, because I have gotten to know and work with all of you. The work of the commission is critical to the safety of Nevada and I can clearly and with good conscience, say that Nevada is much better off than when we began. And finally, I ask you not to allow the media events of late to chill your enthusiasm. Let me close with an old saying, 'While the dogs may bark, the caravan must continue on.' All in favor, please signify by saying 'Aye'."

[some confused utterances and some Ayes]

Mr. Bussell, "Motion carries."

Mr. Fisher, "Jerry, I have a question before you go to Public Comment. As I looked through the hundreds of pages of information there was something that was missing and I am puzzled as to why it was, and maybe the sub-committee can explain. Based upon some of the things that were in the initial media, comments about the need to have more support staff to do what needs to be done for this commission. It is my understanding that you work with three people? In your office?"

Mr. Bussell, "That's correct."

It is my understanding that the State of Arizona, just on the Homeland Security side, not on emergency management has something like 15 people? Is there a reason why, first of all, why Nevada did not have that kind of support staff for our professional that there should have been? And more importantly, is there a reason, unless I'm missing it and I could be, how much staff is going to be assisting the new structure, and where is it going to be funded out of? Because, I don't see anything in all of this, in everything that we have had, there is nothing for the Homeland Security Office and the Homeland Security staff. And I don't know how many people in this room spend time in the Homeland Security trailer in Carson City. We had an amber alert emergency and I walked into that office and I said I need to listen to the radio and they looked at me like I was crazy. What kind of equipment do you think that we really have here? Where do you think we

are getting the money for it? I want to know accountability. What are we going to do for the future? We can't undo the past."

Mr. Myler, "Mr. Chairman. This is Glade up in the north. Before you move on with any more comments, I don't think we ever did get a motion on #4, which was the CCP.

Mr. Bussell, "Yes, we did have motion, and we are having discussion right now. We have not taken the vote yet. Correction, we have taken the vote."

Mr. Togliatti, "George Togliatti. Just a response to Bob. As far as our future staffing, and future organization, I think we can address that in the very near future. But more immediate answer as far as funding, and Frank Siracusa can back me up on this. All of the funding, we have all the caveats with the Feds as far as what we can use it to spend it on, it would come out of the Administrative Piece.

Mr. Siracusa, "Yes, that is correct. There is a 3% off the total amount of dollars that comes off the state side of the money that is specifically to be used for admin purposes to pay for wages, salaries, and operating expenses, rent and those kinds of things, to provide functions within Homeland Security. The existing dollars that are in place today primarily support half of Jerry's salary, half of one member of his staff, and staff persons are paid out of state general fund dollars as a result of AB 441, which allowed for two full-time general fund positions to support this commission. There are four positions assigned to the Division of Emergency Management, or to the State Administrative Agency that enable us to do the necessary management of the grants both on the fiscal side and the programmatic side. And also pay for any rent, travel and any other operating expenses. So those dollars as we speak right now are accounted for and that is all we have. The commission in the future could obviously utilize some of the other portions of the money where it does allow for positions in planning, training and exercise if need be with the 05 dollars."

Ms McDonald, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are some of the issues that we definitely need to address, particularly for our proposed legislation. I do echo Commissioner Fisher's comments regarding the staffing and Commissioner Togliatti's comments also regarding the structure, and also regarding the funding and the criteria. Those types of things need to be in the legislature. It is my understanding that we were only gave \$110,000 during the last session which certainly does cover hardly anything. At our next near-term meeting we will definitely have to address this in the Finance Sub-Committee as well as the By-Law and Legislative Committee."

Mr. Bussell, "Having no Public Comment – no one signed up – we can adjourn."

Ms McDonald, "I just had another comment. I just wanted to state also – well I want to make two comments. I want to thank Mr. Tim McAndrew for a very professional and succinct presentation, as well as your documents. Thank you for having those user-friendly to where we could all understand those. And I also wanted to thank you Mr. Chairman for your 18 months of hard work, your dedication, and your commitment. I would just like to say that I haven't seen anything of an impropriety nature. It is not the commission's role to get

involved in vendor issues at all. I have not seen anything nor has anyone contacted me. I just want to thank you for all of your work. Thank you.”

Mr. Keller, “I echo those sentiments. Thank you for your guidance of this commission. I have an announcement to make. Due to the Attorney General of Nevada’s decision that our sub-committee meetings must be subjected to the open meeting law I am in the position of resigning my Chairmanship of the Tourism Sub-Committee. The members of that committee had been chosen are my peers along the resorts corridor in Nevada the other vice-presidents and chiefs of Security of these hotels. I occasionally go to lunch with them and I have a monthly meeting with them and I cannot post my lunch agenda nor the Security Chief’s meeting, and so therefore while I will remain a member of the commission and I am honored to be the Vice-Chair, I must resign my position on the Tourism Sub-Committee due to that open meeting law. Thank you.”

Ms McDonald, “One last comment, Mr. Chairman. I also congratulate Commissioner Togliatti, I understand that he will be serving during the interim, and I am sure we have the support of the remaining commissioners to make sure we fulfill our mandate. Thank you.”

Mr. Bussell, “Again, thanks to everyone.”

Mr. Fisher, “I want to echo the sentiments that had been said, and I also want to expand. Besides the exceptional work that Tim [McAndrew] has done, Frank and Kamala also did, and not just with this commission, they have been involved and we work very closely together in the emergency alert system and I would love to get you more staff and I would love to get you the kind of help and support because one of the things we want to take out of the language of this commission,... I don’t every again want to vote under that ‘well you know we only have so much time’ Now you are right we have a new year and we’ll do it right, so we can do right. I also echo the sentiments thanking Jerry for the work that you have done. You know when you came to my office when we started this you approached me the same way that you approached every other commissioner. How are we going to do the job? What the best way that we can do it? What are your ideas? What are your thoughts? You were so open to reach out into this community and into this commission. And you really wanted to do the best job that you could. I am sorry for the ... we make a separation between broadcast media and print media and I am sorry for that and I have responded privately to some of the allegations that came out in the press. I want to thank you for your service. It is very much appreciated. And as we know, it is not the easiest job in the world. Congratulations, to the gentleman on the end, and we will be there to support you.”

Mr. _____, “If I could, I would just like to comment on what I consider to be a truly remarkable job done by Mr. Bussell with the limited resources he had to work with and the bringing together of all these divergent people on the commission and holding us together for the last 18 months. I know it has been appreciate by me, and everybody that I have spoken with. So thank you.”

Mr. Togliatti: “I too, would like to thank Jerry. Also, Tim McAndrew for an outstanding job on the presentation and being the guiding light for the sub-committee process. And as we go forward, if we are all like Tim we will all be

able to take this to the next level. Really, you did a great job, thank you. Thank you [commissioners] for your support. I will be in touch in the next few weeks to get everyone's input as far as how we reorganize and move forward. So I can make recommendations to the governor, as far as where our Homeland Security Efforts are going from here. I need everybody in this commission to give me their input. Thank you."

Mr. Staley, "I also would like to thank Tim [McAndrew]. I would also like to explain as chairperson of the Southern Nevada Area Communications Council, Tim has been very proactive in getting some other grants before the Southern Nevada Area Communications Council. He has been very active, of course he has a mayor that also has interoperability as #1. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department presented their radio concept on Monday, which was very well accepted by the mayor, is my understanding. But also in relation to the press as it relates to radio systems in Nevada, #1 every entity when these monies trickle down, those entities are the ones who are going to spend the money; not this commission. The Southern Nevada Area Communications Council is highly committed to a vendor that has not been mentioned in the press and for us to change systems would cost us what we have requested to get us to be able to talk to everybody in the state. So we don't have an interest to change. I also want to congratulate George, I am sure he is going to do a great job in the interim, and I am going to sorely miss Jerry. I think Jerry has done a dynamite job and I don't think that anybody appreciates that fact that on a daily basis he has wanted in about five or six different areas in this state. Thank you very much."

AGENDA ITEM #4

PUBLIC COMMENT (Discussion Only)

No one signed up for public comment.

AGENDA ITEM #5

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bussell, "Seeing there are no further comments, the meeting is adjourned."

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/

Gwendolyn P. Hadd

Homeland Security Analyst

Minutes approved at the Oct 28, 2004 Nevada Commission on Homeland Security's meeting.